



**August 2010**

**Volume 6, Issue 8**

**Copyright RCT**

## From The Editor...

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Hello again, RCT members!

In the spirit of summer, we are right in the middle of the usual August mid-summer doldrums with not too much happening on the air or at the club...

Except... Wait for it...



# Its Hamfest time!

Yes, it is that time of year again. Time to dust off the items that did not sell last year and buy a table at the annual Radio Club of Tacoma's ham fest.

If nothing else, come out to the Bethel High location and look at all the neat stuff that the others have put on display for you. It is fun just to travel up and down the aisles looking for the ever elusive part that will make your homebrew rig sit up and beg!

Or maybe you're looking for a nice low cost "previously owned" radio to use to get on the bands?

It's all there at the 'fest. Just come and look!

It's also vacation time...

Hopefully most of you are, having some kind of vacation enjoying the nice summer weather, either here on in some suitable vacation locale!

Do us all a favor, though. If you travel to some remote DX location, take a radio!

**RCT Board Meeting 7/8/10**

Board members in attendance Rick Rose, Joe Lester, Frank Palmer, Al Lentz, Si Nelsen, Gary McAdams, Harry Adams, Ken Gibson. Jill Palmer was absent.

The meeting commenced at : 7:02

Discussion about who attended the last meeting and whether there was a quorum. It was determined that there was a quorum.

Motion to approve May meeting minutes. Si Nelson motioned to approve. Al Lentz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

June minutes – correct #4 from Elway to Elwel, and “for rent “and” replacement.

Motion to approve minutes as corrected.. Motion passed unanimously.

**Health & Welfare** – Jill is recovering from surgery.

**Correspondence:** Hamfest envelope, and Jill sent a thank you card for receiving visits and flowers from the Radio Club.

**Treasurers report:** \$9191.27

**Committee Reports:**

Membership – email sent to say cutoff was June 30. Some new renewals were turned in. 301 is the current membership total. All else is processed. A question – when is the roster coming out? Possibly 2 weeks. Gary asked if it was possible to get the roster electronically. Rick indicated that there were reasons not to.

**VE Report** – None

**Hamfest** - Larry KD4VOM reported coming up on the 14th of August. Requesting the board to authorize a temporary loan of \$1,000. Gary McAdams motioned a temporary loan of \$1000 to Hamfest account. Al Lentz seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

**Field Day** - \$46 in donations for Field Day kitchen. Total cost was \$76.59 Jan Cultherson and Bob Purdom received special thanks from Larry. Janice and Larry will not be able to do Field Day kitchen in the future.

**Repeater Committee** – No information.

**Field Day Report** – no report, but Si Nelson noted that the concept was very important for ham radio. (See last month's “Loggers B ark...Ed.)

**Property Management Team** – Frank Palmer noted that the Auction completed. \$251.95 for the amplifier, and \$63.08 for the tower. Frank asked if there were any complaints. Frank asked for the Board to approve another auction for ten items. Rick Rose asked why the items for auction are not being used for Hamfest sales. Frank noted that property management team made a reasoned evaluation. Frank Palmer made a motion to approve the list of ten items at a member-style closed auction. Gary and Si seconded. Motion passed without opposition.

**Salmon Run** – Al Ferguson, N7OMS asked for the Board to consider beginning an endowment for the club. Ken Gibson will work with Al and others on providing information.

**Unfinished Business** - None

**New Business** – Ken Gibson motioned that the membership roster be distributed electronically with the notation that it is for the exclusive use of club members only for club related business and not to be used for commercial purposes.

Gary McAdams seconded the motion. Ken spoke in favor of the motion 1) it is expedient and customer service focused, 2) reduced club cost, and 3) most of the information is available publicly.

Rick Rose spoke against the motion. The standard Rick has held to is that it does not get distributed electronically.

Rick noted that there is one exception, which is that the partial list is sent to the web master. Rick argued that it is a slippery slope to sending information out for other purposes. Rick stated that the purpose in not publishing in electronic format is to inhibit the distribution.

Peter AD7EU spoke that in 2006 a concept of a formal privacy policy was attempted to be introduced. Gibson rebutted by noting that the policy should be the clubs and not an individual committee. The information is not being publicly distributed, and finally, all decisions of the board should, by the reasoning mean all decisions should go to the membership.

Frank – suggested polling the members to see what format they wanted to receive the information. Rick Rose asked Peter if he had any options to table the motion.

After discussion, Gibson made a motion to amend the motion to state 2010 Roster only. Si 2nded the motion. The motion passed. Six voted in favor of the motion. No opposed. The motion carried.

Following the vote, Rick Rose voiced strong opposition to the passage of the measure, noting that his policy had been to tell the membership that their information would not be shared electronically. He noted that based on this he would be deciding whether he could remain as chairman of the Membership Committee and still support the Board's decision.

Rick called for any additional new business. It was noted that Bill Wright asked for help to get a new coffee and cookies patron. Rick asked if anyone was available. It was suggested that KA7NWF, Leonard be approached. Frank will ask Jill to approach Leonard. Al N7OMS has been asked about purchasing new coffee pots. Frank – Cabinets need help – poor condition. Larry indicated that one is not in great shape, but works. Originally cost about \$35. Frank asked that the Board approve the purchase of locking filing cabinets to contain club owned manuals not to exceed \$100. Al Lentz seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition. Larry indicated that there are archival documents that need to be kept in good condition.



**Radio Club of Tacoma's  
Hamfest is:  
Saturday, August 14  
2010 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Bethel Jr. High School in  
Spanaway, WA  
Same popular location  
as last year**



## VE REPORT by John AC7WW

Tuesday July 13 there was nine Volunteer Examiners standing by with exams in hand at the Radio Club of Tacoma clubhouse wondering if any candidates were going to show up? If we are there, candidates will show up!

We had a 100% pass rate with three candidates passing element three to earn their general and two candidates passing element four to earn their extra license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Al, AC7BU  
Rich, KK7VH  
Don, K7QLC

Jan, K7HTU  
Jim, N7RHX  
Bill, AD7QI

Jon, AD7AW  
Stephen, AD7AB

The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, August 10th, 2010, and at the Hamfest Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

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## **70 ft. tower and antennas for sale**

Rohn 45 gauge  
70 ft., fold over at 30'  
Take down and haul, need gin pole  
Will need new cement base section at new location  
Guy wires included, need cement anchors

Antennas & Rotor  
HyGain TH6DXX (needs some work on traps)  
2m Yagi, 18 element  
Cushcraft Ringo Ranger

## **\$1500**

Jerry Kiniry WB7CKH  
H 845-3742  
C 226-0096





# Ask Radioman

Answers to your questions  
pertaining to Amateur Radio and  
Amateur Radio operation

Send your questions to: [radioman@w7dk.org](mailto:radioman@w7dk.org)

**Ask Radioman... Because he knows more than you do...**

**Radioman responds to reader questions ...**

**Dear RM:**

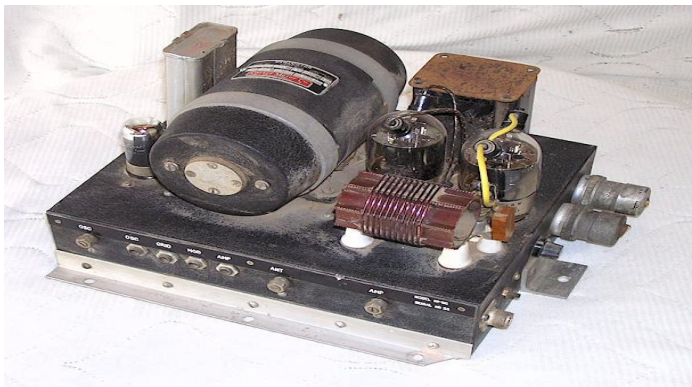
My granddad was a old time radio operator, he used to home brew many of his radios, or "rigs" as he called them.

After he passed, I was going through his stuff and I found this very interesting old piece of gear. I wonder if you can identify it and maybe tell me what it is supposed to do?

I have enclosed a few pictures and what appears to be a schematic . (Next page)

Can you help?

Signed Cornfused in Cornell

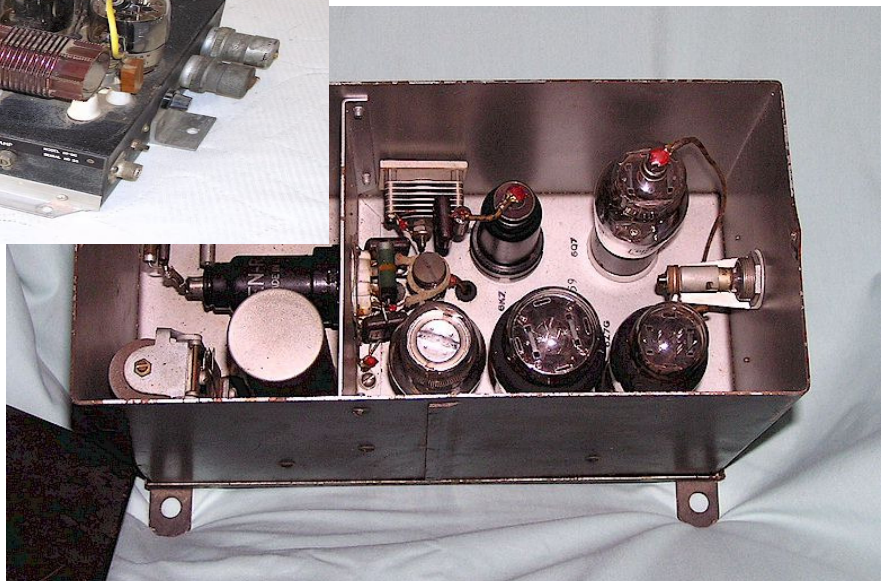


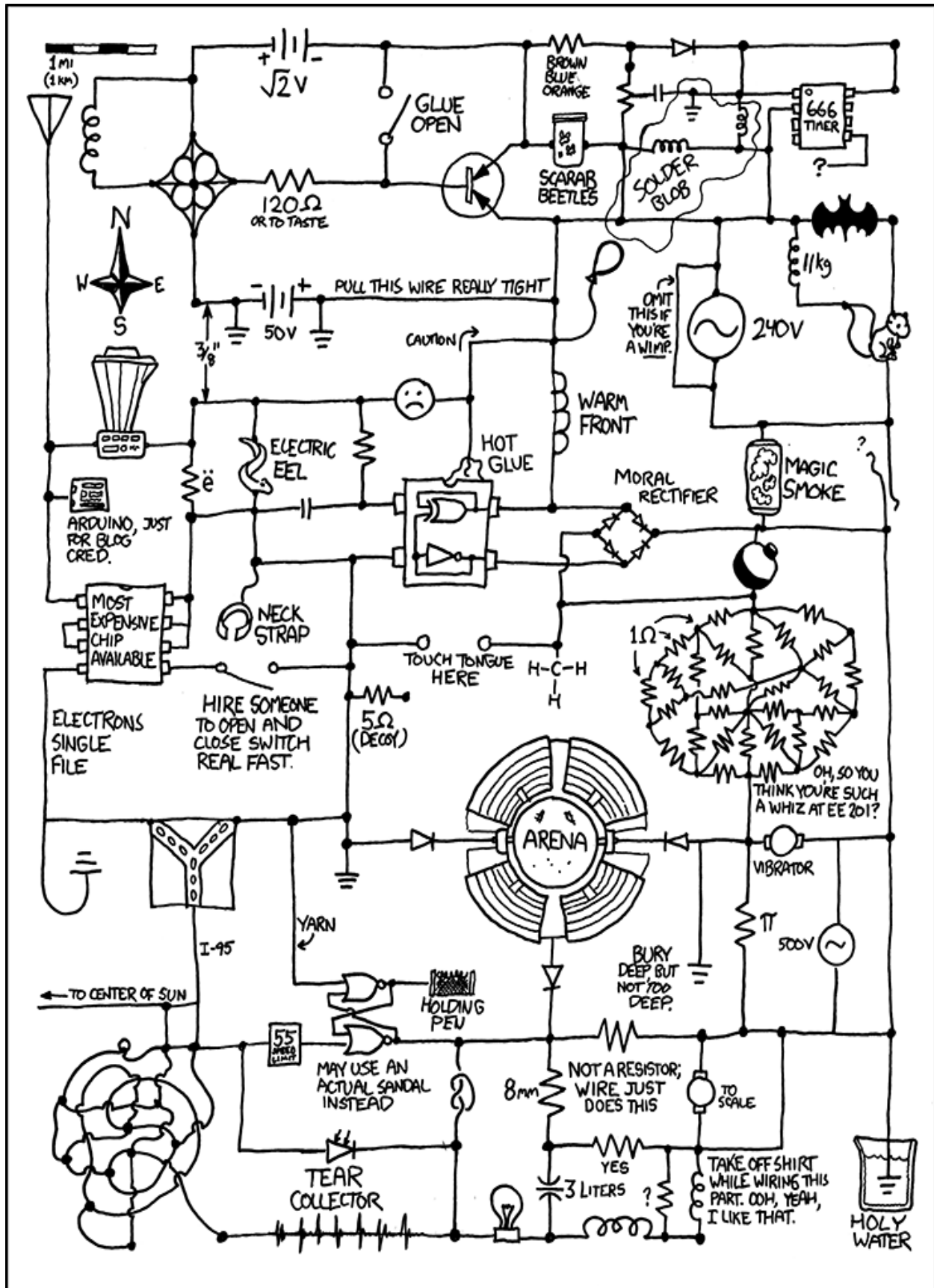
Dear Confused: Well.. It's obvious. What you have there is a mobile confusion generator, used by the OSS in WWII.

We would say more, but we're sworn to secrecy! BTW, don't answer the door for a couple of days, OK?

73 from Radioman!

**"He knows more than you do!"**





**Dateline: August 2010**

## **Sparky's "View from the Shack"**

***This and that around the club, and more...***

*Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

- Our Legacy...
- Mystery photo
- Around the Club
- Attaboys
- ARRL and other stuff...
- View from the Shack

### **Our Legacy**

#### **From the Radio Club of Tacoma Archives,**

End of an Era... C & G Electronics has recently closed its doors. We've lost yet another source of electronic parts, pieces and tools. C & G

had been stocking less and less amateur related gear over recent years, much to the dismay of the area Ham community. But there is more... C & G has a long and close relationship, especially with the older (make that more senior...) club members. The Puget Sound has, in recent years seen the demise of several businesses who helped serve the amateur radio community. We miss them. You may ask why this article in the "Legacy" section...??? Well it turns out our close relationship with C & G goes back to the Doc Spike days, as the Quarter Century Wireless Display at C & G photo clearly illustrates.



### **Last Month's Mystery Photo**

Last month's mystery photo was of Gene Dodge's, W7BTV Shack, an active member in the '60s

### **Around the Club...**

We've already covered most of June's Hamfest, so this month I thought we'd just do a pot pourri of recent club and club member activities.



The 31 July Open House was a busy place. Nice weather brought out nearly 30 folks who enjoyed the "last Saturday" Hot Dogs and Chili fare, while others brought, and some bought their gear to foist off on willing buyers at the Mini Flea Market. The Club pawned off several items of excess inventory and added some coin to the coffers. Meanwhile up in the HF Room there was activity on the bands, and in the critic's corner as well. Even





the Museum had its share of activities.

If you're not visiting the Clubhouse on Saturdays, you're missing a lot of the fun and stories that are told and retold there. This particular Saturday, we were honored with a visit from Lifetime Member Jerry Hathaway K7ETU who was visiting in the area from his home in Roseburg Oregon.





The Last General **Membership Meeting** in July proved a bit unusual. Several of the officers were unable to attend, so master toastmaster Joe Lester took the gavel in hand and demonstrated his smooth eclectic skills. Although no formal program was on the agenda, two homebrew antennas were demonstrated and explained. A Tri Band Dipole built by AD7QI for Leonard KA7NWF, and an unbalanced dual wire dipole built and described by Bill W7IJ. These two antenna presentations generated considerable discussion on their characteristics, pro and con.



Rich KR7W brought in a "show and tell" antique "Transoceanic" wannabe along with the history of their development and commercial competition in the early '50s



### ARRL and other stuff:

#### ARDF Update: Radio Foxhunters Find Their Champions in Ohio

Organizers of the USA ARDF Championships tested their equipment on the campus of Miami University, next to a preschool. Event co-chair Dick Arnett, WB4SUV, took time to teach the kids about hidden transmitter hunting and let them try it for themselves. [Joe Moell, K0OV, photo]



#### Government Agencies Introduce User-Friendly *Federal Register*

While the Federal Register may be the ultimate record of the business of the USA's Executive Branch, it can be difficult to navigate. The Register publishes

approximately 80,000 pages of documents each year in the form of Notices, Proposed Rules, Rules and Official Documents; this is where all new and amended rules to Part 97, the Amateur Radio Service, must be published before they go into effect. On Monday, July 27 -- in an effort to make things a bit easier on the thousands of people who access the Federal Register each day -- the US Government Printing Office and the National Archives' Office of the Federal Register launched a new and improved online Register. Named Federal Register 2.0, it is an outgrowth of President Obama's first executive order that mandated greater federal government transparency. The launch of the new site coincided with the 75th anniversary of the Federal Register Act, which became law on July 26, 1935.

### Solar Update

Tad "[Somewhere in this favored land the Sun is shining bright](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: We've seen increasing solar activity all this week, with average the daily sunspot numbers rising nearly 14 points to 35.6, and the average daily solar flux rising nearly 5 points to 85.3. Sunspot group 1089 has grown, shrunk and is now growing again; as of Wednesday, it has been visible a total of 10 days. Three more sunspot groups appeared this week, with the latest -- group 1092 -- rapidly appearing on Wednesday with a relative size of 180 millionths of a solar hemisphere. The relative size of group 1089 for July 19-28 was 130, 150, 310, 240, 200, 160, 140, 100, 70 and 90. The predicted solar flux (as of Wednesday) for July 29 is 85, 87 for July 30-August 1 and 85 for August 2-4. The predicted planetary A index for those days is 15 for July 29, 10 on July 30-31, 8 on August 1-2 and 6 on August 3-4. Along with increased solar activity, we have seen higher geomagnetic indicators, all due to a stiff solar wind. Both the planetary and mid-latitude A indices nearly doubled for the week. Look for more information -- including a look at sunspot activity and predictions, as well as 6 meter activity now compared to the 2000-2001 sporadic-E seasons -- on the ARRL Web site on Friday, July 30. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Ernest L. Thayer's Casey at the Bat.



### Attaboys:

This month's Attaboys go to Pete David KK7QW who found a bucket, some Clorox and a long extended handle brush, and in a couple of days scrubbed our clubhouse clean of the grime and mildew that had accumulated in recent years. I thought he was painting — the difference was so dramatic. Pete employed the Mark Twain paint the fence scheme to some limited success, but in the end, we owe him for making the clubhouse a respectable looking

has been lots of activity installing the new alarm system, thanks to Rich KR7W, Bruce WE7P and Al N7OMS, and perhaps others Sparky wasn't aware of.

### View from the Shack...

Sparky reminds you all that the annual W7DK @ the Fair is coming up next month. Stephen Morton AD7AB is the head guy and you can sign up for a shift on the website at [w7dk.org](http://w7dk.org). This is not only great fun and a free pass and parking for the Puyallup Fair, but promotes amateur radio to the thousands of folks who attend the fair every year. Especially fun is working with curious kids who seem fascinated by the Morse code key work and learning to send their name in Morse code. Here's a shot of our booth at the 1977 Fair....

**Salmon Run** is in the works for September. Al Ferguson N7OMS is spearheading the fundraising event associated with the Western Washington DX Association Salmon Run (Washington State QSO Party) again this year.

*Sparky*

***"Don't worry about what people think, they don't do it very often"***

*The Disclaimer...*

*These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and a attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.*







**Jet setting?**

Here we have Bob W7EXC meeting a local ham, Jet 4F7MHZ in Cebu City in the Philippines. No word on the QSL card yet!



Here's Bob in his usual habitat...

In front of the rig,  
searching for the ever  
elusive DX!



## **Bunny Hunting in Canada!**

### **AL, N7OMS**

Sue and I decided to attend the ARDF event that was held in Burnaby, BC on July 17th 2010. This would be our second time up to BC for the ARDF. Last year we managed to expand that trip to include a little sightseeing. I had always wanted to go to Acme, Washington and see if Wily Coyote was picking up any tricks for the Road Runner. That made for a fun trip with some Bunny hunting to start the adventure off.

ARDF stands for Amateur Radio Direction Finding. This is where someone hides several transmitters out and about then you use a beam style antenna to go and find them. Overall time is used to determine how you did against others trying to find the same transmitters. There have been several hunts in the Tacoma area over the last several years and interest seems to be growing.

The Burnaby hunt would be in the international style. Five transmitters on the same frequency. Number 1 would transmit for one minute then be off for 4 minutes. After number 1 stops the number 2 begins then 3, 4 and 5 all in order. They had an extra transmitter on a different frequency that was being using to help the beginners in the group. Everyone started at a different time and we had 90 minutes to get back to the start point. The course was about 5 miles so no sitting around looking for birds!

We left Tacoma early Saturday morning in order to get to Burnaby Lake Regional Park by about 10:30. Oh the plans of men and women! Got to the border in good time and didn't have to wait much more than 30 minutes. Everything was going great till we reached HWY West 1. Stop and go for as far as I could see. After awhile we used the talk in frequency to see if there was any hope of different route but alas no luck. The last start time was to be 11:45 and it didn't look good. The group at the site said to come any way and have some BBQ. We finally broke free of the traffic and got to the site right at 11:45. Keith VE7MID took pity and said go hunt. Sue and I gathered our gear and got briefed and left the start about 11:55

The park is fairly flat unlike last year's event location that had 5 gullies each of which Sue and I hiked up and down several times. The obstacle at Burnaby Lake was the lake itself. Shaped something like a kidney with the transmitters hidden all around the lake and no way across the middle of the lake. You needed to pick your path carefully or backtrack a lot and with the lake in the way that would be very costly in time. When you found a fox, there was a punch that you used on your card with each location a different pattern of punch holes. That is so you could tell them apart.



The weather was just outstanding and the location was very scenic. Sue and I got back to the start in the time allotted and enjoyed visiting with the other hunters and enjoying a very nice BBQ. Sue and I brought home a medal and great memories. We wish to thank the B.C. Radio Sport people and the Burnaby Amateur Radio Club VE7BAR for hosting this event.

**That in and of itself would have made for a great adventure. But wait ...there's more!!**

Sue had booked a room in La Conner at the Planters Inn and getting from Burnaby to our room was a snap compared to getting to the hunt. We got to La Conner in time to freshen up and wander the quaint shops on the main street. The temperature was in the mid 70's and the sky was blue. After walking down the main part of town we started walking up Morris St. and found Seed's Bistro & Bar. We liked the menu and decided to dine there. It was still very pleasant outside so we elected to eat below a beautiful tree. I read the plaque later to discover that the tree was a Beech planted in 1890. The oldest Beech in Washington State.



Sunday morning it was time to head home but we wanted to stop and get some berries. On the way into La Conner we had seen signs for Blueberries and Strawberries. We spotted a sign for the Berry Barn, perfect. After selecting a couple of items I got to looking around and discovered that all around the barn walls was a shelf lined with older tube style radios. Turns out the owner had started with a few and her customers keep bringing her more. She told me the story of one radio, a very nice Transoceanic.



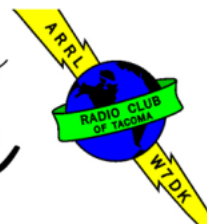
A doctor from Mt Vernon had seen her collection and shown up one day with this Transoceanic. He had bought it new and was not using it any longer because it had stopped working and never got it fixed. After the doctors death the family members would come by once in a while to eat pie and visit the Radio.



Not sure of the details of next year's ARDF event in Burnaby but you can be sure that Sue and I will be thinking of ways to expand that weekend into another adventure. Just need the time and place and a little inspiration.



## The Radio Club of Tacoma's *Logger's Bark*



*The Logger's Bark* is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

### Club Officers

President: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com  
 Vice Pres: Rick Rose, KE7EMW, 253-581-7673 rick-rose@comcast.net  
 Secretary: Ken Gibson, N7ELF 253-759-6919 n7elf@junett.com  
 Treasurer: Joe Lester 73radio@gmail.com

### 5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Lentz, W7AML alentz@centurytel.net  
 Harry Adams W7HSA RCT@xemapsl.com  
 Silas Nelson KA7AQT sinelsen@amum.ups.edu  
 Gary McAdams, WG7X wg7x@arri.net  
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 Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...  
 Send articles to: thebark@comcast.net or The Bark, 11405 88th Ct SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

**The Fine Print:** The *Logger's Bark* is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org). If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

**ADVERTISE in the BARK:** \$60.00 full page, \$30.00 half page, \$15.00 quarter page, \$5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.

**Want / For Sale ads** are free to members. The *Logger's Bark* does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The *Loggers Bark* if Credit line is included in the article.

**Membership Info:** FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

## *Radio Club Repeaters*

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5    Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

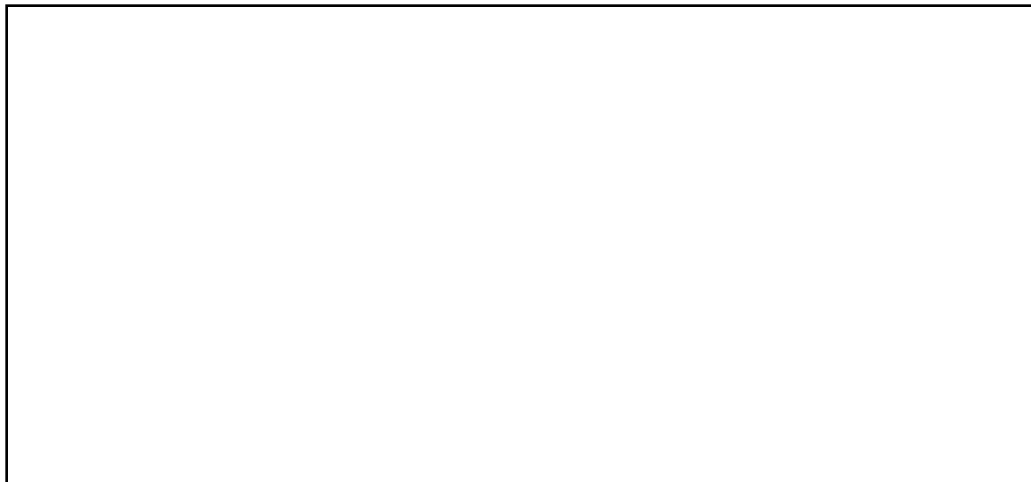
***The Loggers Bark***

**Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.**

**PO Box 11188**

**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**To RCT Member:**



# AUGUST 2010 EVENTS

**CLUB MEETINGS:** Wednesdays August 11th and 25th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting:** Wednesday August 4th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline:** Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Support our club:** Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.